

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 /042 W

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R 241726Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZORES

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1904

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ELAB PO

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON THE AZORES

REF: LISBON A-179

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION WE ARE SENDING ALONG SUMMARIES
OF SEVERAL LISBON PRESS ITEMS.

2. THE CONSERVATIVE WEEKLY "O PAIS" FOLLOWED UP ON LAST
WEEK'S REPORT OF LAJES WORKERS' GRIEVANCES (REFAIR) WITH
A UNE 24 ITEM ENTITLED "THE LAJES PROBLEM IS WORSENING."
THE ARTICLE CONTINUED: "THE EXPULSION OF THE AMERICAN
COMMANDER OF THE LAJES AIRBASE, GEN. WIGLEY, WAS DEMANDED
IN A MOTION APPROVED IN A PLENARY SESSION OF THE
FIVE UNIONS OF TERCEIRA ISLAND AS A REPRISAL AGAINST
THE LACK OF ATTENTION GIVEN THE DEMANDS OF THE PORTUGUESE
WORKERS ON THE BASE. THE DEMANDS DEAL PRINCIPALLY
WITH FULFILLMENT OF PORTUGUESE LABOR LAW WHICH THE
AMERICAN EMPLOYER IS NOT FULFILLING. THE LEADERS MET
WITH MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC GEN GALVAO DE FIGUEIREDO AND
WITH MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT BUT DID NOT SUCCEED
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IN OBTAINING THE INTERVENTION OF THESE AUTHORITIES. UNION
LEADERS TOLD 'O PAIS' THAT THEIR ULTIMATUM REGARDING GEN
WIGLEY EXPIRES JUNE 30. IF THEY ARE NOT LISTENED TO, THEY
THREATEN, THEY MAY EXERCISE REPRISALS AGAINST AMERICAN
CITIZENS WHO LIVE IN THE LAJES BASE AREA IN ORDER TO MAKE THEIR
REMAINING DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE."

3. THE WEEKLY "O JORNAL" RAN THE FOLLOWING ITEM IN ITS JUNE 24 GOSSIP COLUMN ENTITLED "AMERICAN FLAG PAYS HOMAGE TO SEPARATISM." THE ARTICLE CONTINUED: "ON JUNE 6, THE KEY DATE FOR AZOREAN SEPARATISM, THE AMERICAN FLAG WAS RAISED AT THE AMERICAN CONSULATE IN PONTA DELGADA IN A SHOW OF CELEBRATION. NONETHELESS, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, FOUR DAYS LATER ON THE PORTUGUESE NATIONAL HOLIDAY, THE FLAG WAS NOT RAISEDTHESE FACTS CAUSED, ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, GREAT INDIGNATION IN THE PORTUGUESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE RESPONSIBLE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT WAS NOT REQUESTED ONLY BECAUSE THE DIPLOMAT ALREADY HAD BAGS PACKED."

4. FLAG INCIDENT HAD BEEN RAISED INFORMALLY WITH AMB BY FONMIN DIRECTOR GENERAL. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT JUNE 6 WAS REGULAR WORKING DAY AND FLAG ALWAYS FLOWN AT OFFICE ON WORK DAYS. JUNE 10 WAS HOLIDAY--NOT NATIONAL DAY--AND, FOLLOWING USUAL CONSULAR PROCEDURE, FLAG WAS NOT FLOWN.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 24-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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